

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12190 221915Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 ERDA-05 OES-07 MCT-01 NRC-05 FEA-01 /113 W
-----005279 221921Z /40

O R 221855Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1243
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 12190

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC SOPN UR US SF
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF: (A) STATE 199208 (NOTAL) (B) MOSCOW 12007

1. ASSUME REFTEL REFERS TO MOSCOW 12007 WHICH REPORTED TASS WASHINGTON

ITEM CARRIED IN AUG 18 CENTRAL PRESS (PRAVDA AND
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA). INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF RUSSIAN TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT:

WASHINGTON 17 (TASS)
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AS HAS BECOME KNOWN HERE, IN CIRCLES CLOSE TO WHITE HOUSE,
THEY HAVE BECOME CONCERNED WITH WARNING EXPRESSED IN TASS
STATEMENT. INFORMATION ("DANNYE") ON THE PREPARATION FOR CARRYING
OUT A TEST OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON ON A RANGE IN THE KALAHARI
DESERT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IS BEING CAREFULLY
("TSHCHATEL'NO") STUDIED. END TEXT

2. IN ADDITIONAL MEDIA COMMENT ON THIS THEME, AUG 21 KZ CARRIED TASS N.Y. ITEM CITING ABC-TV REPORT THAT USG HAS AT ITS DISPOSAL INFORMATION ("SVEDENIYE") THAT REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA "IS OCCUPIED WITH WORKING OUT, OR ALREADY POSSESSES, ITS OWN NUCLEAR BOMB" (ORIGINAL QUOTES).

3. PRAVDA (8/22) CARRIED MORE FAVORABLE TASS WASHINGTON ARTICLE ON STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT USG HAD "REPEATEDLY" ASKED SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IF IT WAS PREPARING TO CARRY OUT AN EXPERIMENTAL EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND WARNING IT THAT SUCH EXPERIMENTS MIGHT HAVE "THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" (QUOTES IN ORIGINAL).
ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REPORTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT RESPONDED TO FIRST U.S. INQUIRY OF A WEEK AGO MADE AFTER SOVIET PRESS HAD CARRIED REPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PREPARATION. ARTICLE ENDED WITH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT THAT "WE" KNOW THAT SOVIET UNION SHARES U.S. CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THAT "WE HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE SOVIET STATEMENT ON THIS QUESTION".
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR TESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW12190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-1305
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770837/aaaabfhz.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b6afa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 199208, 77 MOSCOW 12007
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1528114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MEDIA ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST
TAGS: MNUC, SOPN, UR, US, SF
To: STATE PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b6afa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009